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April 14, 1999 LB 512, 610, 652

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Hilgert has the following guests visiting the Legislature this morning. (Visitors introduced.) Also Senator Baker has the following guests visiting the Legislature this morning. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature, I now am compelled to ask my seatmate a question. Senator Thompson, would you yield to a question or two?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Thompson, did the majority of the people you listed as members of that task force attend a majority of the meetings?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You say you take responsibility for the bills that were presented, does that mean you drafted them or that others suggested these ideas and you submitted them to the bill drafter?

SENATOR THOMPSON: I drafted the juvenile facility plan with assist...technical assistance from the department. LB 610, in its original form, was a direct recommendation from and the facility master plan was a recommendation of the task force. The transfer of youth confinement facilities to...back to the juvenile justice system was not a recommendation of the task force. However, the task force recommended that we needed secure confinement, so that's...that, and that was not my bill. That was Senator Dwite Pedersen's bill but I'm a cosponsor of that bill. The third bill, LB 610 was a recommendation of the committee to address the problem that the Legislature debated last year, of the task force, excuse me, and as it currently looks, it's different in this amendment. There was a group that worked together to develop this. It's kind of a combination of LB 512, LB 610 and...so it's my bill but it's not as it was originally introduced. LB 610, as it was written, was...I was